

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ISTANB 03359 111351Z

45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CU-04

HEW-08 /157 W

----- 074497

R 111320Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4606

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 3359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH ELECTION OUTLOOK

REF: A. ANKARA 802 B. ISTANBUL 3328

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS RECENTLY ORGANIZED BY MILLIYET AND HURRIYET NEWSPAPERS TEND AGREE THAT JUSTICE PARTY (JP) LIKELY TO RECEIVE BETWEEN 40-45 PER CENT OF POPULAR VOTE BUT MILLIYET POLL GIVES HIGHER FIGURES TO REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP), PREDICTING 36-39 PER CENT OF TOTAL VOTE AS COMPARED 30-32 PER CENT IN HURRIYET POLL. NUMBER OBSERVERS HERE (SEE REF. B) BELIEVE BOTH POLLS ARE UNREALISTICALLY SKEWED TOWARD VIEWPOINT URBAN VOTER AND IN FACT MILLIYET ITSELF NOTED THAT IN RURAL DISTRICTS VOTERS WERE RELUCTANT TO REVEAL THEIR PREFERENCES AND APT TO RESERVE DECISION UNTIL ELECTION DAY ITSELF.

2. THIS IMPRESSION UNDERSCORED BY REPORTER IN CHARGE OF HURRIYET POLL WHO RECENTLY TOLD CONGENOFF THAT PARTLY DUE TRADITIONAL RESERVE OF VILLAGER AND PARTLY DUE QUALITY OF POLL  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ISTANB 03359 111351Z

TAKERS HE RELUCTANT VOUCH FOR ACCURACY RURAL RESPONSES. ON

LATTER POINT HE NOTED THAT SINCE HURRIYET WANTED A THOUSAND UNBIASED VOLUNTEERS THE PAPER WAS FORCED TO EXCLUDE TEACHERS OR PROMINENT VILLAGE FIGURES WHO MIGHT HAVE DIRECT INTEREST IN POLL RESULTS. INSTEAD POLL CARRIED OUT BY LOW LEVEL OFFICIALS, WHO IN SOME CASES MAY OUT OF INDOLENCE OR RELUCTANCE TO PRY, HAVE SENT IN IMAGINARY REPORTS. SAME REPORTER FELT THAT MILLIYET SURVEY MORE PROFESSIONAL AND THUS MAY BE MORE ACCURATE GUIDE TO URBAN VOTERS' SENTIMENTS. HOWEVER, SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT MILLIYET POLL WAS CONDUCTED IN LATE AUGUST AND THUS WOULD NOT REFLECT ANY CHANGES IN VOTER OPINIONS THAT MAY HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THEN. SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT EVEN IF JP FALLS SHORT OF ABSOLUTE MAJOR LY POPULAR VOTE, IT STILL COULD WIN NARROW MAJORITY OF SEATS DUE TO PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM USED.

3. WITH REGARD YOUTH VOTE, WE CONCUR WITH POINT MADE IN IZMIR 442 THAT MAJOR ISSUE IS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICULARLY DISSATISFACTION WITH DISRUPTION CAUSED BY MILITARY INDUCZLON SYSTEM. THIS IS FAR AND AWAY MOST FREQUENT COMPLAINT RAISED BY YOUNG PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED HERE AND IS OFTEN CITED BY OLDER TURKS, PARTICULARLY PARENTS. AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HERE, ECEVIT SEEMS OVERWHELMINGLY THE MOST POPULAR OF TURKISH POLITICIANS. HOWEVER, THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO RPT NO ORGANIZED POLITICAL ACTIVITY TO BE DETECTED AMONG STUDENTS. THIS DUE IN PART TO FACT THAT ALL OVERT STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY BANNED AND IN PART TO PREOCCUPATION WITH UNIVERSITY EXAMS. AT RECENT PERFORMANCE OF POPULAR FOLKSINGER RUHISU ATTENDED BY CONGENOFF, MOST FREQUENTLY HEARD WORDS IN PRE AND POST CONCERT CHATTER AMONG YOUTH WERE "ECEVIT" AND "IMTIHAN" (EXAMINATION). LARGE ELEMENT OF CROWD AT ECEVIT'S RALLY AT TAKSIM SQUARE OCT. 11 WERE YOUNG PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY UNIVERSITY AND OLDER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

COMMENT. IN SHORT, FROM ISTANBUL VANTAGEPOINT, IT APPEARS THAT RPP UNDER ECEVIT HAS MADE NOTICEABLE GAINS AMONG URBAN VOTERS AND IS SUCCEEDING IN LARGE MEASURE IN THROWING OFF OLD RPP IMAGE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF MILITARY AND BUREAUCRATIC ELITE. THUS, KEY FACTOR IN ELECTION OUTCOME MAY WELL BE EXTENT TO WHICH JP BASE IN VILLAGES OF ANATOLIA HAS BEEN ERODED BY RPP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ISTANB 03359 111351Z

AND/OR SMALLER RIGHTWING PARTIES.  
MACE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTION FORECASTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973ISTANB03359  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** ISTANBUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731039/aaaabcih.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. ANKARA 802 B. ISTANBUL 3328  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TURKISH ELECTION OUTLOOK  
**TAGS:** PINT, TU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005